

08CN8803-21

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 75 are pending in the present application. Claims 7, 9 – 11, 13, 14, 16 – 25 and 30 – 75 have been cancelled, Claims 76 – 154 have been added, and Claims 1, 2, 8, 27, and 28, have been amended, leaving Claims 1 – 6, 8, 12, 15, 26 – 29, and 76 – 154 for consideration upon entering the present amendment. Support for these amendments can be found in the claims and figures as originally filed, as well as in the specification, e.g., in Paragraphs [0018], [0032], [0049], [0100], [0116], and elsewhere.

The Specification has been amended. Support for the amendment to the specification can at least be found in the specification as originally filed. For example, one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand a rigid substrate to be a "hard disk" when discussing "an aluminum-boron carbide rigid substrate". (see Example 12) No new matter has been added by this amendment.

The above amendments are submitted in response to the interview on January 12, 2005. During this interview the claims of the present application and of U.S. Patent Application Ser. Nos. 09/846,889 and 09/683,114 were discussed. References discussed include: U.S. Patent No. 5,538,774 to Landin et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,972,461 to Sandstrom, translation of Japanese Patent Application No. S63-205817 to Otada, and U.S. Patent No. 6,764,734 to Vierk et al. Agreement was reached that the above amendments overcome these references.

Also discussed during the interview was combining U.S. Patent Application Ser. Nos. 09/846,889 and 09/845,743 into a single application. Further discussed was combining U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/683,114 into that application. This amendment combines those three applications. If this amendment is entered, an express abandonment will be filed in U.S. Patent Application Ser. Nos. 09/846,889 and in 09/683,114.

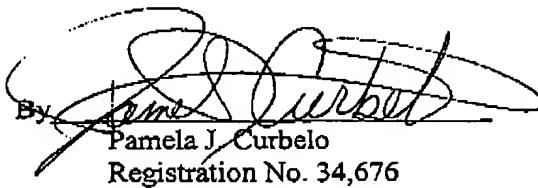
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Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the discussions during the interview.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Supplemental Response or otherwise, or if an extension of time is required, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0862.

Respectfully submitted,

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